

establishment of the LAP (see § 285.11). The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) does not unilaterally propose or decide the scope of a LAP. Communication with other laboratory accreditation systems is fostered to encourage development of common criteria and approaches to accreditation and to promote the domestic, foreign, and international acceptance of test data produced by the accredited laboratories.

#### § 285.4 References.

NVLAP is designed to be compatible with domestic and foreign laboratory accreditation programs to ensure the universal acceptance of test data produced by NVLAP-accredited laboratories. In this regard, these Procedures are compatible with:

(a) The most recent official publications of ISO Guides 2, 25, 30, 38, 43, 45, 49, 58, and Standards 8402, 9001, 9002, 9003, and 9004.

(b) International vocabulary of basic and general terms in metrology (VIM) and Guide to the expression of uncertainty in measurement, issued by International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM), International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), International Federation of Clinical Chemistry (IFCC), International Organization for Standardization (ISO), International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC), International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP), and International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML).

#### § 285.5 Definitions.

*Accreditation (of a laboratory):* A formal recognition that a laboratory is competent to carry out specific tests or calibrations or types of test or calibrations.

*Accreditation criteria:* A set of requirements used by an accrediting body which a laboratory must meet in order to be accredited.

*Approved Signatory (of an accredited laboratory):* An individual who is recognized by NVLAP as competent to sign accredited laboratory calibration or test reports.

*Assessment (of a laboratory):* The on-site examination of a testing or calibration laboratory to evaluate its com-

pliance with the conditions and criteria for accreditation.

*Authorized Representative (of an accredited laboratory):* An individual who is authorized by the laboratory or the parent organization to sign the NVLAP application form and commit the laboratory to fulfill the NVLAP requirements (The Authorized Representative may also be recommended by the laboratory as an Approved Signatory).

*Calibration:* A set of operations which establish, under specified conditions, the relationship between values indicated by a measuring instrument or system, or values represented by a material measure, and the corresponding known values of a measurand.

*Calibration method:* A defined technical procedure for performing a calibration.

*Certificate of Accreditation:* A document issued by NVLAP to a laboratory that has met the criteria and conditions for accreditation. The Certificate of Accreditation may be used as proof of accredited status. A Certificate of Accreditation is always accompanied with a Scope of Accreditation.

*Competence:* The ability of a laboratory to meet the NVLAP conditions and to conform to the criteria in NVLAP publications for specific calibration and test methods.

*Deficiency:* The non-fulfillment of NVLAP conditions and/or criteria for accreditation.

*Director of NIST:* The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology or designate.

*Laboratory:* An organization that performs calibrations and/or tests. When a laboratory is part of an organization that carries out activities additional to calibration and testing, the term "laboratory" refers only to those parts of that organization that are involved in the calibration and testing process. The laboratory activities may be carried out at or from a permanent location, at or from a temporary facility, or in or from a mobile facility.

*LAP:* A laboratory accreditation program established and administered under NVLAP, consisting of test methods or calibrations relating to specific products or fields of testing or calibration.